

Section III: State Agency Procedure Manual

IX. State Food Delivery

A. Food Delivery System

Purpose

This policy describes the food delivery system used by the Montana WIC Program.

Policy

It is the policy of the Montana WIC Program that the retail store system is used for the delivery of food benefits.

1. Authorized Vendors

- Only those vendors authorized by the Montana WIC Program may redeem food benefits.
 - A current list of Montana's WIC-authorized vendors is available on the Montana WIC Program's website.

2. Participants

- Participants shall receive the WIC Program's supplemental food benefits free of charge.
- WIC food benefits must be redeemed in person at a Montana WIC authorized vendor.

3. State WIC Agency Responsibilities

- Provide a uniform WIC food benefit which is in the form of an eWIC card. This benefit is used by all local WIC programs in Montana.
- Maintain an inventory of eWIC cards to distribute to local agencies as needed.
- Pay vendors in a timely manner. The WIC food benefits are then presented through the Federal Reserve System to Solutran, Minneapolis, MN, with whom the State WIC Agency contracts. The bank will provide reimbursement within 3 business days of the transaction.
- Maintain a contingent revolving fund for the WIC Program at Solutran. Each day the bank presents the State Office with a statement showing the amount of benefits paid. The bank is reimbursed for this amount through the use of a telephone transfer system.

4. New Banking Contracts

- Bank Contract
 - The Montana WIC Program will start to review and plan for a new banking contract one year before the current contract expires. This allows time to determine what changes need to be made to the contract and to have the new contractor selected with no interruption in service.
 - The contract will be a sealed bid process, opened to all banking institutions. The term of the contract is a minimum of three years, with three one-year extensions, based on the mutual approval of the WIC Program and the contractor.

5. Current eWIC Processor Contract

- eWIC processing services: Solutran, 13305 12th Ave. N. Minneapolis, MN 56253. The current contract's initial term is July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021.

6. Direct Distribution

- When a medical/exempt formula or nutritional is not available through a local authorized retailer, the local agency will order the prescribed product through the State Office Nutritionist(s).
- The State Office Nutritionist will place the order with the manufacturer directly and have the product shipped to the local agency.
 - The State Agency has a tracking system for formula ordering which includes maintaining purchase order forms electronically and a spreadsheet for communication between fiscal and nutrition staff.
 - The State Agency has contracts in place with all major formula manufacturers to receive discounts where applicable. Agreements are also in place to be able to return formula where applicable (not opened).
 - The State only orders quantities appropriate for issuance, rather than in bulk as the need for specialized products often change and we aim to reduce waste of resources.
- The formula will be received by the local agency and directly issued to the participant at the earliest possible time.
 - The participant must provide a signature in receipt of the product which will be scanned into the participant chart for monitoring and tracking and/or the local agency staff who issues the product will document in chart the amount of product issued (with all related details for tracking).
 - The product will be stored within the clinic, in a locked/secure location and at regular room temperature until issued.